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BOOK REVIEWS

THE COMMON DISEASES OF THE SKIN. A Handbook for Students and Medical Practitioners. 3rd Edition by R. Cranston Low, M.D., F.R.C.P.E., F.R.S.E. Edinburgh: Messrs. Oliver and Boyd. 1939. Pp. 319 with 48 illustrations. Price 10s. 6d.

THERE are numerous handbooks on Skin Diseases but few which approach the standard set by this volume. The clear descriptions, dogmatic views and literary style assure for it a wide appreciation by both students and practitioners.

This third edition has been brought fully up to date and conforms with the more modern views on ætiology and treatment. All the more common conditions of the skin are considered as well as certain of the more rare conditions which might on occasions be of importance to practitioners, while the text is supported by an excellent collection of descriptive illustrations, several of which are in colour.

The first chapter follows tradition in dealing with the normal skin and a general consideration of diagnosis and treatment, but Dr. Low has succeeded in giving an unusually clear and concise introduction to the subject which will greatly assist the uninitiated in grasping the fundamental principles underlying Dermatology. Stress is laid on the great importance of VISUAL MEMORY in the study of diseases of the skin and this alone should help the student to approach the subject with less bewilderment and to remove the tendency to regard this branch of Medicine as obscure—a tendency which is very largely due to an incorrect approach to the subject. This simplification is apparent throughout the book in the careful grouping and classification and the avoidance, as far as possible, of unnecessarily complicated nomenclature.

The sections on infestations, urticaria and infantile eczema are especially good; in fact, only the index is inadequate. The balanced interpretation of the parts played by internal and external factors results in the presentation of the subject in a manner which will prove of considerable practical value.

D. E.

COMMON SKIN DISEASES. By A. C. Roxburgh, M.A., M.D., F.R.C.P. Fifth edition. London: H. K. Lewis. 1939. Pp. 450. 179 illustrations. 15s.

IN this work, which is one of the well-known General Practitioner Series, there have been few changes in the new edition apart from minor alterations and additions in the text and the inclusion of fourteen new illustrations.

Written from the standpoint of the general practitioner, it deals only with the more common conditions which are likely to be encountered, while differential diagnosis is considered in unusual detail.